

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services

Transport of Patient Family Members and Belongings

Often Catawba County EMS is requested to transport a patient's family member or belongings with the patient. Patients are our customers and every effort should be made to accommodate the patient and their family.

- One member of a patient's immediate family may be allowed to ride with a patient during transport, provided the family member does not have an alternate mode of transportation and understands and agrees to all of the following:
 - They must ride in the passenger seat in the cab of the ambulance and remain seat belted at all times.
 - Transport will not be delayed while waiting on a family member to arrive at the scene or to become ready for transport.
 - If it is anticipated that the patient will be transported emergency traffic or if significant care will be provided (i.e., intubation, application of traction splint, use of bone injection gun, etc...) a family member will not be allowed in the ambulance.
- An exception as to who may ride with a patient can be made by EMS staff **ONLY** when the patient's treatment may call for it (i.e., an interpreter is needed, the parent of an infant child, etc...)
- Friends or other non-relatives are not allowed to ride with a patient in a Catawba County EMS unit.
- Catawba County EMS will only transport one bag of belongings with a patient.
- A description of the patient's belongings should be noted on both the patient care report and the signature form.
- Exceptions for transporting patient belongings
 - Medical emergencies where time is critical.
 - Large, bulky, or heavy items which would interfere with the safe transportation of the patient, i.e. wheel chairs.
- When the patient's belongings are transported in the patient compartment of the ambulance, they must be properly secured. Any item that cannot be properly secured shall not be transported.